

Policy and Procedure	Date Issued 1/1/2010	Section Provider Network	Policy Number QA-4	Page 1
Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division  SAIL	Date Revised	Subject: Code of Ethics		

## 1. POLICY:

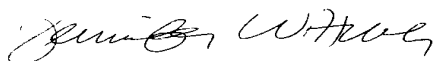
The Behavioral Health Division (BHD) Community Services Branch is dedicated to building upon the strengths of the client, family, and team members, and increasing clients' independence. All SAIL Community Services Network Providers must engage in professional behaviors and maintain ethical standards of practice with clients, colleagues, and the community. The Community Services Branch subscribes to ethical standards of practice that promote professional responsibility, protect client's rights, and keep clients' interests primary.

## 2. PROCEDURE:

**It is the responsibility of SAIL Community Services Network Providers to adhere to the following ethical conduct guidelines.**

- A. Treat clients, families, and team members with dignity, respect and fairness.
- B. Respect confidentiality of clients, families, and team members and do not disclose confidential information without having authorized releases of information. Avoid discussion of confidential information in any setting unless privacy can be ensured.
- C. Refrain from physically, verbally or sexually abusing a client, family member or other individuals that reside with the client and/or with whom the client has a close personal relationship.
- D. Possess knowledge base of client's culture and demonstrate competence in providing services.
- E. Know and follow the code of ethics of each respective profession (as/if applicable).
- F. Know and follow the rules/laws of each respective license as granted by the State of Wisconsin Department of Licensing and Regulation (as/if applicable).
- G. Avoid exploitation of professional relationships for personal or financial gain, such as Providers employing a client in exchange for treatment or support services.
- H. Refrain from willfully misrepresenting the SAIL Community Services Branch, Milwaukee County, or any client in the SAIL Community Services Branch.
- I. Avoid conflicts of interest that interfere with professional responsibility and impartial judgment.
- J. Avoid any and all sexual activities or sexual contact with a current or previous client, relatives or other individuals that reside with the client and/or with whom client has a close personal relationship.
- K. Treat colleagues with respect and courtesy; represent fairly the views of colleagues.
- L. Take adequate measures to discourage, prevent and correct the unethical conduct of colleagues.
- M. Treat all clients/families fairly, without prejudice in regard to mental or physical disability or characteristics, race, gender, sexual orientation, age and religious beliefs and/or practices.
- N. Use reasonable judgment and take precautions to ensure that any potential biases do not lead to or excuse unjust practices.
- O. Avoid the use of derogatory language in written and/or verbal communications to or about client/families.
- P. Refrain from offering other Providers reciprocal compensation for referrals for services.

Reviewed & Approved by:



**Jennifer Wittwer, Associate Director  
Adult Community Services Branch**